

BRAVE ITALIANS SURROUND CAMP OF INVADERS AND CAPTURED ALL

ITALIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN NORTHERN ITALY, Dec. 12.—A brilliant night adventure was executed Monday night by the third battalion of the 226th Arezzo brigade in completely relieving a threatened Italian position on the Lower Piave river. Most of this section is protected by inundation, but the Austro-Hungarians early in the day succeeded in occupying a small bridgehead at Capo Sile, a few miles

below Dona Pieve. The chief danger of this was that it led to the Sile river, running to Port Grande, with Venice a short distance beyond. The Arezzo brigade was ordered to clear out the enemy's bridgehead. At 2 o'clock in the morning the third battalion threw out a reconnaissance party, which, on returning, reported the Austrian camp asleep around the bridgehead. The enemy camp

was taken completely by surprise and could make no effective resistance. The fighting in the darkness was short and terrible. What enemy troops were not bayoneted and killed were taken prisoner and the last vestige of the bridge and bridgehead were destroyed. The result of the operation is that the only point seriously menaced on the Lower Piave has been made solid.

UNFIT OFFICERS TO BE DROPPED

COMMANDERS FOR AMERICAN TROOPS TO BE SUBJECTED TO SEVERE EXAMINATIONS.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Commanders for American troops at the fighting front are to be selected only after rigid investigation of their physical and professional fitness for their task. Early announcement of the retirement or discharge of some of the general officers is to be expected, as medical boards already have reported against men in both the regular and national guard service.

"The condition of foreign service in this war," said the war secretary, "are unusually severe, requiring that general officers shall be not only adequately grounded in military science and adequately alert physically to acquire rapidly the lessons which the new form of warfare requires, but able to endure prolonged hardships."

"The determinations of these boards are impersonal and in the interest of the success of our armies and the welfare both of leaders and men, and will be affirmed by the department. This policy will no doubt commend itself to the people of the country as being in the public interest and even where it is necessary to deny the opportunity for foreign service to soldiers of long experience it will be understood to imply nothing in any way prejudicial to the officers involved."

JAP TELLS OF GERMANY.

(By Associated Press.) SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 11.—Captain Takikichi Wakasawa of the Japanese army, who was taken prisoner by the Germans on the Russian front and later released, said here recently that Germany is starving, but Austria is fairly well fed. The Austrian soldiers are praying for peace, he stated.

Captain Wakasawa said that despite the enemy status of his country he was merely treated as an observer in Germany, and was told by German Red Cross workers that he could have anything he wanted in the way of food.

His request for meat and coffee, however, brought only an apple, about 150 grams of bread and a cup of the desired beverage. "It was the best they could get," he stated.

VALUABLE MOLES.

(By Associated Press.) EUGENE, Ore., Dec. 12.—One hundred and sixty-five moles whose skins were worth a total of \$25, were caught in traps by Glenn Bailey, a 14-year-old boy living east of this city. Only four traps were used and the catch was made in a single season. Some firms are paying from 35 to 40 cents for mole pelts now, it is declared. The demand for them is greater than ever before.

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SALE OF RESOURCES FROM FOREST RESERVES BRING \$143,123.80 IN NOV.

(By Associated Press.)

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 12.—The sale of resources from the national forests in California totaled \$143,123.80 in November of this year, as against \$97,215.02 for November, 1916, an increase of \$45,908.78, according to an announcement by the forest service here. The figures show net receipts.

The big receipts are said by the

forest service to be due to the enormous increase in all sorts of building and the increase in grazing areas. The timber sales alone amounted to \$130,138.09 since June 31, as against \$84,004.11 for the same period last year. Twenty-five per cent of these receipts are given to the state for road work and school maintenance in the national forest areas. An additional 10 per cent

goes for road and trail construction by the government.

The sale of timber in the national forests is so regulated that there is absolutely no deforestation. Certain trees are marked for cutting by experts of the forest service, and the timber interests can take no other. The trees that are cut are replaced by others, thus perpetuating the forests.

ANNUAL REPORT OF TARIFF COMMISSION

The United States tariff commission, which was organized for work April 1, 1917, has just submitted to congress its first annual report. The commission is charged with the investigation of the administration and the fiscal and industrial effects of the customs laws of this country, including their relation not only to the federal revenue, but to the industries of the country. It has power, further, to investigate commercial treaties, preferential agreements and economic alliances, and the conditions and causes affecting the competition of foreign industries with those of the United States.

The commission submitted, during the extra session of this year, to the committee on ways and means of the house of representatives a report which recommended that congress should take steps analogous to those which other countries have taken, and which are there known as "padding" laws, whereby proposed increases in duties and taxes should go into effect before the enactment of new revenue laws, but subject to their being finally passed. The method adopted by congress to attain the same end in the war revenue act of this year is to follow taxable articles into the channels of trade. But this does not reach smaller retail stocks and it has the further objection that it suddenly imposes great burdens and responsibilities on the bureau of internal revenue. The commission repeats its recommendation for permanent legislation on this subject.

A NEW INDUSTRY.

(By Associated Press.) MISSOULA, Mont., Dec. 12.—A new industry for this section—the making of cheese from ewe's milk—has been started in this state, according to reports to the district headquarters of the forest service here.

Lee Simonson of Billings, who owns many sheep which graze on the national range, placed a flock of 600 ewes in the hands of an expert cheese-maker last July. Since that time 4,000 pounds of rich cheese has been manufactured, which was sold at prices ranging from \$1 to \$1.50 a pound. Nine men were employed in milking the ewes and making the cheese.

Mr. Simonson declares his intention of devoting two flocks of 5,000 ewes each to the industry next season.

CHANGE NAMES.

(By Associated Press.) SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 11.—A lot of name changing, for which cupid is not responsible, is now going on in this city. Various persons having cognomens with an enemy alien suggestion are asking the courts if they might switch to "Lee," "Smith" and various other names having a distinctly American flavor. Before the war the courts here were asked to change but two or so names a year. Now they are being asked to change that many a day.

CONSECRATED ALTAR IN HELENA, MONTANA

(By Associated Press.)

HELENA, Mont., Dec. 12.—The altar in the Catholic cathedral of St. Helena here, consecrated recently by Bishop John P. Carroll of the Helena diocese, is declared to be the only consecrated altar west of the Mississippi river, with the exception of one at Dubuque, Iowa, and another at Keokuk, Iowa. There are only two additional consecrated altars in the entire United States, according to Monsignor Victor Day of this city, one in St. Patrick's cathedral in New York and the other in St. Elizabeth's in Chicago.

Ordinarily the altar stone only is consecrated and inserted in a table of stone or some other material. Incased in the altar of St. Helena here are relics of St. Vincent, reason of Valencia, martyred in Spain, January 22, A. D. 304, and St. Maurice, commanding officer of the Theban legion, martyred September 22, A. D. 285, at Martignac, on the Rhone.

SALVAGE FOR RED CROSS.

(By Associated Press.)

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 12.—Tinfoil, old clothes and bottles, metal scraps and discarded automobile tires, salvaged and sold by a committee of Red Cross workers here, produced more than \$1,000 for the Red Cross war fund last month.

So successful has been this Red Cross "mobilization of junk" that a salvage section of the western division has been created, with Mrs. Othman Stevens, originator of the salvage idea, as director.

The committee began operations last May and the first month's returns were \$90. Since then they have increased steadily.

PRIZE WINNING STEER.

(By Associated Press.)

BERKELEY, Cal., Dec. 12.—"Marvel," the steer bred and fed by the University of California and which has just won the grand championship at the Pacific livestock show at Portland, has been declared by eastern judges to be one of the best of its kind in the country. "Marvel" is a brother of the steer which won last year's grand championship for the university at the International livestock show in Chicago.

"St. Patrick," also bred and fed at the university farm, won the reserve championship at Portland, and the university also won the first prize for the best herd of steers at the show.

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BRITISH LOSSES.

(By Associated Press.) LONDON, Dec. 12.—The British casualties reported for the week ending yesterday numbered 23,356, as compared with 28,822 in the previous week. The casualties were as follows:

Killed or died of wounds—Officers, 359; men, 5,052.

Wounded or missing—Officers, 978; men, 16,967.

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